



Why worry about climate change? A research agenda

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Abstract:

Estimates of the marginal damage costs of carbon dioxide emissions suggest that, although climate change is a problem and some emission reduction is justified, very stringent abatement does not pass the cost-benefit test. However, current estimates of the economic impact of climate change are incomplete. Some of the missing impacts are likely to be positive and others negative, but overall the uncertainty seems to concentrate on the downside risks and current estimates of the damage costs may have a negative bias. The research effort on the economic impacts of climate change is minute and lacks diversity. This field of study should be strengthened, with a particular focus on the quantification of uncertainties; estimating missing impacts, estimating impacts in developing countries; interactions between impacts and higher-order effects; the valuation of biodiversity loss; the implications of extreme climate scenarios and violent conflict; and climate change in the very long term. I discuss these particular gaps in research, and speculate on possible sign and size of the impacts of climate change.

Source: Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Temperature, Unspecified Exposure

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding

Food/Water Quality: Other Water Quality Issue

Water Quality (other): Saltwater intrusion

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity

Temperature: Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Morbidity/Mortality

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Other Diarrheal Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Model/Methodology:

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Cost/Economic, Methodology

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Long-Term (>50 years)